

NOTICE FOR COMMENT USDA - Forest Service, Northern Region Idaho Panhandle National Forests Bonners Ferry Ranger District Boundary County, Idaho Boulder Creek Restoration Project - Environmental Assessment The Idaho Panhandle National Forests is proposing to conduct a variety of natural resource management activities on National Forest System lands in the Boulder Creek watershed in the Bonners Ferry Ranger District. The 41,612 acre project area is located within all or portions of Federal lands in: T61N, R2E, Sections 1-2, 11-13, 20-36; T61N, R3E, Sections 5-9, 16-22, 27-34; T60N, R2E, Sections 1-36; T60N, R3E, Sections 3-9, 16-20, 29-30; and T59N, R2E, Section 4, Boise Meridian. The proposed action for the Boulder Creek Restoration Project (BCRP) includes approximately 7,400 acres of prescribed burning and about 3,400 acres of commercial vegetation management on National Forest System lands. Proposed vegetation treatments include 127 acres of shelterwood harvest with reserves, 2,872 acres of seedtree harvest with reserves, 434 acres of dry site improvement / group selection harvest, 806 acres of pre-commercial thinning and a 22 acre fuel break on Black Mountain. A combination of prescribed burning and machine piling would be used to treat fuels in the commercial harvest units and fuel break. Actions to improve wildlife habitat, aquatic resources, manage noxious weeds, roads and recreational opportunities are also proposed. Road treatments to reduce sediment and provide for safe public travel include improving about 76 miles of roads. About 3.2 miles of temporary roads would be constructed to provide access to treatment locations and they would be decommissioned following the completion of project-related activities. About 13.4 miles of roads with restricted access (gated roads) would be put into storage until needed in the future and about 0.7 miles of road decommissioning is proposed on an old surplus road that is no longer drivable. The BCRP - Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzes two action alternatives to meet the purpose and need of the project. For more details, please refer to the complete EA, along with supporting documentation, which is available for viewing and downloading on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=44066> Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.25, written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, or electronic comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice in the Coeur d'Alene Press. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. You should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day. A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR 218.25(a) (4). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted. Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 218.2). Submit your comments by one of the following methods. 1) Written comments must be addressed to the Responsible Official, Mary Farnsworth, Forest Supervisor, and submitted to: Doug Nishek, Bonners Ferry Ranger District, 6286 Main Street, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. 2) Oral comments must be provided at the Bonners Ferry or Sandpoint Ranger District office during normal business hours via telephone (208) 267-5561 or in person. 3) Fax your comments to (208) 267-3732. Direct your fax to the attention of Doug Nishek, Project Leader, and include Boulder Creek on the subject line. 4) Acceptable formats for electronic comments are text or html e-mail, Adobe portable document format (pdf), and formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications. Email your comments to: comments-northern-idpanhandle-bonnerr-ferry@fs.fed.us The subject line must contain the name of the project for which you are submitting comments. For electronically mailed comments, the sender should

normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement from the agency as confirmation of receipt. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. Specific comments should include: (1) the commenter's name, address, telephone number, and organization represented, if any; (2) title of the document on which the comments are being submitted; (3) specific written comments regarding the proposed activity, along with supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider; and (4) signature(s). Only those who submit timely and specific written comments as defined in 36 CFR 218 regarding the proposed project during a public comment period established by the responsible official will be eligible to file an objection. For objection eligibility each individual or representative from each entity must provide a name and mailing address and either sign the comments, or verify their identity upon request. Individual members of an organization must submit their own comments in order to have eligibility to object as an individual. Information received in response to this solicitation, including names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of those who provide input, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments may also be submitted anonymously; however anonymous comments will not provide objection eligibility to the submitter. Additional information is available from project leader Doug Nishek, (208) 267-5561 at the Bonners Ferry Ranger District office. LEGAL 8430 OCTOBER 6, 2017